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Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Report of the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fifth session in September and October 2014, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2015.[1] This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2015: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2014 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2015. This is provided in annex I.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each meeting of the Standing Committee in 2015 is contained in the following documents: the report of the sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1144); the report of the sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1151); and the report of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1152). A list of conference room papers, strategic overviews and oral updates considered at these meetings can be found in annex II.

II. Issues considered by the Standing Committee in 2015

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on budgets and funding, through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions on budgets and funding, as listed in chapter III below. In June, the Standing Committee was briefed on UNHCR's Global Report on activities in 2014. At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the biennial programme budget for 2016-2017, as well as an advance version of the Report of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the biennial programme budget.

B. International protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on follow-up to the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges (2012-2014). In June, the Standing Committee discussed the note on international protection, an update on statelessness and a paper on alternatives to detention. During the March and June meetings, the Committee was briefed on developments concerning the Executive Committee conclusion on international protection. In September, the Committee was informed that discussions were ongoing on the establishment of a multi-year workplan, containing themes for consideration in 2016 and 2017, to be presented for adoption at the sixty-sixth plenary session of the Executive Committee.

[1] A/AC.96/1143, para. 16.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. Reviews of UNHCR's activities and programmes in all five regions (Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) were comprehensively considered at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. The Committee also received a report on emergency preparedness and response and an update on global programmes. In June, the Committee was presented with reports on innovation with regards to cash-based interventions and UNHCR's communications strategy.

D. Programme/protection policy

7. In June, the Standing Committee reviewed reports on solutions strategies; refugee public health, including HIV/AIDS; community-based protection, including age, gender and diversity; and an update on implementation of the global strategic priorities (GSPs) for 2014-2015, as well as an introduction of the GSPs established by the High Commissioner for the 2016-2017 biennium.

E. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources

8. In March, the Standing Committee considered a report on follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years and received an oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.

9. In September, the Committee considered the report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's financial statements for the year 2014 and discussed the key issues identified in the report and measures taken by UNHCR in response. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, and the Committee received the annual report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee. Updates were also provided on UNHCR structural and management reform; human resources, including staff welfare; and staff security.

F. Coordination

10. At the March Standing Committee meeting, an update on coordination issues and the development of strategic partnerships was considered.

G. Governance

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2015, as proposed at its December 2014 planning meeting. At the June meeting, the Standing Committee was invited to make suggestions on issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the sixty-sixth plenary session of the Executive Committee.

III. Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted the following decisions, which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings:

(a) *Report of the sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1144)

Decision on budgets and funding for 2014 and 2015;

(b) *Report of the sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1151)

Decision on budgets and funding for 2014 and 2015;

(c) *Report of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1152)

Decision on budgets and funding for 2015.

Annex I

[English and French only]

Standing Committee Work Programme for 2015

Theme	*62nd meeting* *3-5 March 2015*	*63rd meeting* *24-26 June 2015*	*64th meeting* *21-22 September 2015*
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding UNHCR Global Report 2014	Update on budgets and funding Biennial programme budget for 2016-2017 Report of the ACABQ on the biennial programme budget for 2015-2016
International protection	Oral update on follow-up to the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges (2012-2014) Oral update on the ExCom conclusion	Note on international protection Update on statelessness Alternatives to detention Oral update on the ExCom conclusion	
Regional activities and global programmes	Strategic presentations on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa Global programmes Emergency preparedness and response	Innovation: Cash-based interventions UNHCR's communications strategy	
Programme / protection policy		Solution strategies Refugee public health, including HIV/AIDS Community-based protection, including age, gender and diversity Update on the 2014-2015 Global Strategic Priorities (GSPs) and introduction of the 2016-2017 GSPs	

Theme	*62nd meeting* *3-5 March 2015*	*63rd meeting* *24-26 June 2015*	*64th meeting* *21-22 September 2015*
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office		Financial statements for the year 2014 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly Key issues and measures taken in response to the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2014 Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee Update on UNHCR reform Human resources issues, including staff welfare Staff security
Coordination	Coordination and strategic partnerships		
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee Work Programme for 2015	Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 66th session of the Executive Committee	

66th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
5–9 October 2015

Annex II

[English and French only]

Standing Committee documentation issued during 2015

62nd meeting (3-5 March 2015)

Conference room papers:

EC/66/SC/CRP.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/66/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2015
EC/66/SC/CRP.3	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/66/SC/CRP.4	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years
EC/66/SC/CRP.5	Update on coordination issues: strategic partnerships
EC/66/SC/CRP.6/Rev.1	Update on budgets and funding for 2014 and 2015
EC/66/SC/CRP.7	Global programmes
EC/66/SC/CRP.8	Draft report of the sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee

Strategic overviews:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa

Oral updates:

- Work of the Inspector General's Office
- High Commissioner's 2014 Dialogue on Protection Challenges on Protection at Sea and follow-up to the Dialogues in 2012 and 2013

63rd meeting (24-26 June 2015)

Conference room papers:

EC/66/SC/CRP.9	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/66/SC/CRP.10	Note on international protection
EC/66/SC/CRP.11	Update on statelessness
EC/66/SC/CRP.12	Alternatives to detention
EC/66/SC/CRP.13	Innovation: Cash-based interventions
EC/66/SC/CRP.14	UNHCR's communications strategy
EC/66/SC/CRP.15	Solution strategies

EC/66/SC/CRP.16	Refugee public health, including HIV/AIDS
EC/66/SC/CRP.17	Community-based protection and age, gender and diversity
EC/66/SC/CRP.18	Update on the global strategic priorities
EC/66/SC/CRP.19	Update on budgets and funding for 2015 and reporting on 2014
EC/66/SC/CRP.20	Draft report of the sixty-third meeting of the Standing Committee

64th meeting (21-22 September 2015)

Conference room papers:

EC/66/SC/CRP.21	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/66/SC/CRP.22	Update on UNHCR structural and management reform
EC/66/SC/CRP.23	Human resources, including staff welfare
EC/66/SC/CRP.24	Staff security
EC/66/SC/CRP.25	Update on budgets and funding for 2015
EC/66/SC/CRP.26	Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, 2014-2015
EC/66/SC/CRP.27	Draft report of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee